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Approved For Release 2005/11/23 : CIA-RDP80B01495R001100100007-5

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11 July 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : Washington-Area Imagery Transmission

REFERENCE : C/DDI/SSG Memorandum of 2 May 1975,  
same subject [redacted]

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1. This memorandum is for information only. It is a follow-up to the referenced memorandum, which informed you that Mr. Colby had directed the installation of a secure photofacsimile system for use in the Washington area involving a "limited number of stations as an initial test network." The DCI further designated the CIA Office of Communications as the Project Office. At the same time, the D/DCI/IC instructed the Chairman, IHC, to form an interagency Working Group to provide overall policy guidance to the Project Office.

2. Since then, the Office of Communications has entered into a FY-1975 contract with the [redacted] for [redacted] system definition and customized engineering of the photofacsimile network, now designated the Washington Image Transmission System (ITS).

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[redacted]  
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WARNING NOTICE  
SENSITIVE INFORMATION  
AND METHODS INVOLVED

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4. A follow-on, Phase II contract will provide a "turn-key" effort by 1 October 1976 for a secure network of 10 stations and a central switch. Communication links will be government-furnished either by commercial lease or a yet-to-be-built proprietary system.

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5. The Working Group--comprised of NPIC, NSA, DIA, CIA, State, ASD(I), and chaired by IHC--has held two meetings. [REDACTED] DDS&T member of the Special Study Group, is the CIA representative. Major topics discussed were network size and system characteristics.

6. Network size is presently limited by available funds. The tentative list of stations for the "initial test network" is:

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Station

1  
2  
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10

7. There is concern by some of the Working Group members that the Services will not be part of the initial network. Generally accepted is the position that, while the network is intended to test the utility of image transmission, the "testing" will be done in a

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near-real-time, operational environment. Thus, the net becomes an operational one, and as such, may have too few subscribers. To join the network, future subscribers would have to fund \$85-95,000 for each additional station.

8. Some of the agreed-to system characteristics are:

a. Transmission modes: broadcast and point-to-point.

b. Transmission media: both prints and transparencies.

c. Transmission quality: more than 300 lines per inch without moire patterns; 64 shades of grey.

d. Transmission time: about one minute using dry silver paper for either prints or transparencies.

e. Voice communications: built-in, secure phone.

9. In general, switch logic is to be designed for ease of operation by untrained watch officers. Features such as "camp-on-call" and the status of all stations on the net are to be included. To allow for future expansion, the switch is designed to accommodate up to 40 subscribers. As many as five secondary or "pony" receivers can be accommodated on each primary terminal, though no such add-on receivers are presently funded.



Chief  
Special Study Group, DDI

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